12/22/69

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman,

Precisely because you "didn't have to" do we particularly appreciate your kind gift and the fact that you thought of it. Living as we sometimes do, eating on the fly, you couldn't have picked a better one. We do thank you and we will enjoy it.

I do not have to tell you that Howard is a very unusual young man. Proportionately, there are a rather large number of his peers interested in the assassination and what is entailed, which is a good sign. However, he is the youngest I know and I think for his years, the most mature and probably the best endowed. He is an exceptionally bright and sensitive youngster.

We have invited him to return, when you permit and he can. At that time, unless you feel otherwise, I will be encouraging him to spend a little time building muscles and his physique in general, in giving a little thought to proper selection of food as a means to the end he seeks. At my age I have suddenly realized the great cost there can be for a man leading a sedentary life. I fear he is developing habits that may, before too many years, give him health problems.

I hope you will not regard this as an intrusion into the jurisdiction of parents. It is simply that when he was here he gave no thought to food, either having or selecting it, and gave every indication he always that way. Sometimes parents are too much taken for granted to be heeded, and the bright ones have a way of politely doing what they please, regardless of parental admonition.

Howard should grow into an exceptional man, one with the capability of making fine contributions to society and of doing what few are able to. It would be a tragedy is he were also a weakling whose productiveness, to say nothing of enjoyment of life, were inhibited.

I know you must be as proud of him as you should be.

And we do, very much appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg